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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Whitman

Application No. 10/010,955

Attorney Docket No. 3556-P02472US1

Filed: November 13, 2001

For: Surgical Clamping, Cutting And Stapling Device

Examiner: Smith, Scott A.

Group Art Unit: 3721

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R § 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this Correspondence is being deposited on the date identified below with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope properly addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

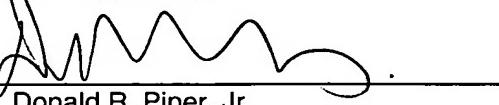
6/17/04  
Date of Certificate  
Robin L. DolanCommissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97**

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants are submitting herewith a Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the references listed thereon. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the filing date of the application. However, Applicants have not yet received an action on the merits of the application. Applicants are resubmitting a Russian reference together with an English translation. Accordingly, Applicants believe that no fee is required pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b) (3). In the event a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the required fees to deposit account no. 04-1406. A duplicate copy of this sheet is included for fee processing, if necessary.

Applicants respectfully request full and proper consideration of the listed information during examination of the application, and that the listed information be printed on any patent that issues therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures - Form PTO-1449

Copies of references listed on PTO - 1449

**INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT**



JUN 21 2004

SHEET 1 OF 1

*Complete if known*

Application Number: 10/010,955

Filing Date: November 13, 2001

First Named Inventor: Whitman

Group Art Unit: 3721

Examiner Name: Smith, Scott A.

Attorney Docket Number: 3556-P02472US1

**UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
		6,308,089	10/23/2001	von der Ruhr, et al.

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	COUNTRY OR REGION	DATE OF PUBLICATION MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR OR APPLICANT
		659146	RU	04/30/1979	(w/English translation)

**OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS**


EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE

DATE  
CONSIDERED

**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw a line through citation if citation not in conformance and reference not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.